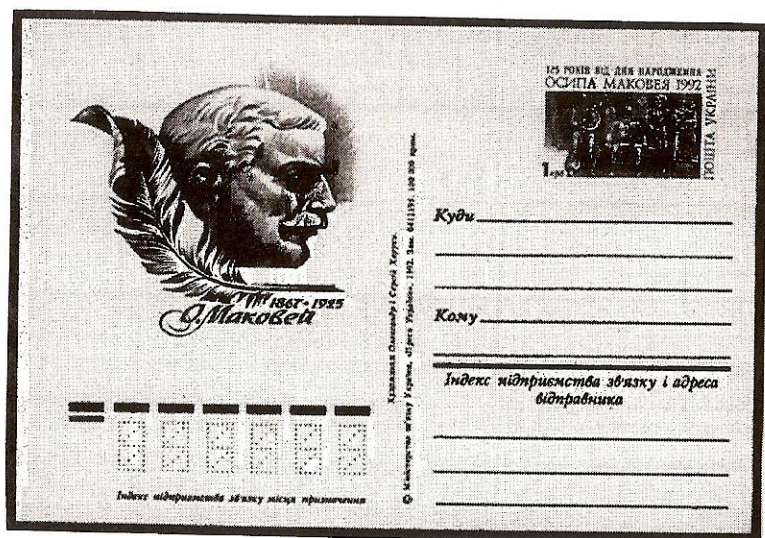


CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 66

June 2004



In this issue: Alexander Malucky reviews the postal cards of Ukraine. Shown above is a card from post-Soviet independent Ukraine.

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Membership dues for the season are \$15, plus an initiation fee of \$10 for new members. Send to the CPS, Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta T2P 2L6. Notice of address changes or enquiries about missing copies should be sent to the Membership Chairman, not the Editor.

The CPS mailing address is Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6. The Web site is: <http://members.shaw.ca/calphilso> All articles as hard copy only, mailed to Box 6830, Calgary, T2P 2E7, or handed to Dale Speirs at meetings.

The CPS was founded in April 1922 by Dr. Edward George Mason. It is Chapter 66 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, Chapter 1360 of the American Philatelic Society, and Chapter 91 of the American Topical Association.

A cumulative subject index from issue #1 to date for the CALGARY PHILATELIST exists but because of its length is too long to be published in this bulletin. A copy can be had for free from the editorial address at Box 6830.

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COMMITTEES - see page 13 for list of committee chairpersons

Introduction.

One of the areas within the philatelic collecting of Ukraine is that of one-sided, prestamped postal cards. Postal cards are of a postal stationery type with the text appearing only on the address side. They have a printed indication of the postal fee value, usually in the form of a postage stamp. Alternatively, the cards may have a surcharge of Ukraine's coat of arms only, or of the coat of arms and a new postal fee value on the printed indication of the postal stamp. They may have a surcharge in the form of a stamp on or near the old indication of the stamp, or the new value only on or near the stamp.

Ukrainian and foreign thematically Ukrainian postal cards were issued by various postal administrations. These include the independent Ukrainian states, the Ukrainian postal administrations under foreign occupations, the postal administrations of foreign occupiers of Ukraine for franking validity in Ukraine only, or if valid throughout the foreign occupier's country, were issued mainly or in part for Ukraine.

Thematically Ukrainian postal cards include those issued by occupiers having franking validity throughout the occupier's country but which were thematically linked to Ukraine or Ukrainians, this being visually discernable or not. The cards include those issued by non-occupying countries, if these were thematically linked to Ukraine and were visually discernable.

Terms used: An oblast is a province. A rayon is a district within an oblast.

Independent Ukrainian States.

These postal cards were either issued, or were being prepared for use, by the following independent Ukrainian states.

The Ukrainian Democratic Republic (1917 to 1920):
This postal administration issued, in its six postal districts, 78 postal cards (with 22 types of surcharges on Russian postal cards). In particular, there were in the postal district of Katerynoslav, 17 postal cards in 1918 and 1919. That of Kharkiv had 12 postal cards in 1918 and 1919; Kyiv (Kiev) had 16 postal cards in 1918 and 1919, and Odesa (Odessa) had 17 cards in 1918. In 1918, Podillya and Poltava each had 8 postal cards. See Figure 1.



Figure 1: Sample postal card of Ukrainian Democratic Republic.

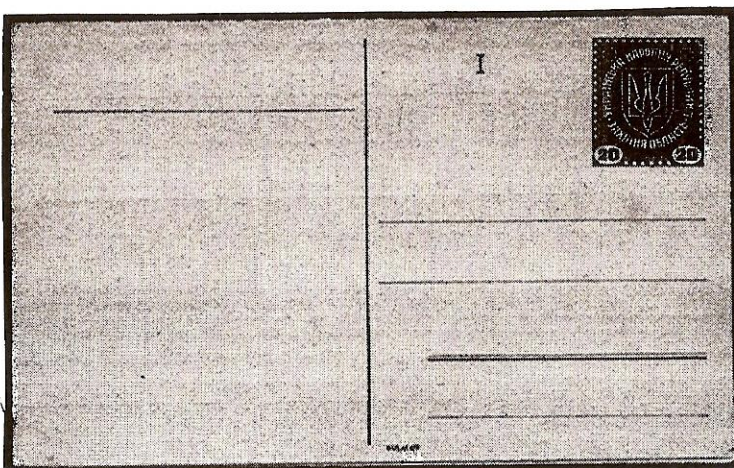


Figure 2: Sample postal card of Western Ukrainian Democratic Republic.

The Western Ukrainian Democratic Republic (1918 to 1919):

This postal administration, which later became the Western Province of the Ukrainian Democratic Republic, ordered the printing of five postal cards in Austria. Due to the Polish invasion of the Western District, these cards were never in postal use. Figure 2 shows an example.

Ukraine (1991 to date):

This postal administration issued several nation-wide postal cards. In addition, some oblast's and a great number of cities and towns have issued, from 1992 on, one or more types of their regional or local postal cards by surcharging Soviet postal cards. Examples are: Boryspil (Oblast of Kyiv), Oblast of Chernivtsi (for each of its rayons), the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Dnipropetrovs'ke, Donetsk, Zolochiv (Oblast of Lviv), Ivano-Frankivs'ke, Kyiv, Melitopil (Oblast of Zaporizhzhya), Odesa, Kharkiv, Tsarychanka (Oblast of Dnipropetrovs'ke), Chernyiv, Shostka (Oblast of Sumy), and many more. See front cover for a sample postal card.

Ukraine Under Foreign Occupation.

These postal cards were issued by the following Ukrainian postal administrations which functioned under foreign occupations of Ukraine.

Ukrainian Relief Committee in Kholm:

Then under German occupation, this postal administration was conceived as an internal link between the headquarters and many branches of this Committee. It issued in 1941 four postal cards, of which only the first two were for a few days in postal circulation, following which the Germans forbade the functioning of this postal administration. See Figure 4 below.



Figure 4: A type of postal card from the Ukrainian Relief Committee in Kholm.

Temporary Ukrainian Administrative Committee in Kolomyia:
Then under Hungarian occupation, this postal administration issued in 1941 one postal card, which was a surcharge on a Soviet card. To date, its postal use has been reported but is as yet unattested. Later, when Kolomyia was already occupied by the Germans, its use as a postal form was allowed for a short time by their postal administration and is so attested. Figure 5 shows an example.



Figure 5: A type of Kolomyia postal card.

Velyka Oleksandrivka:

Then under German occupation, this postal administration issued in 1941 four postal cards with surcharges on Soviet cards, and one postal card with a surcharge on two stamps, the one printed on the Soviet card and another Soviet stamp affixed to it. These postal cards were in use in Velyka Oleksandrivka and a number of localities of its rayon from December 15, 1941, to May 16, 1942. Figure 6 on the next page shows an example.

Unknown Institution in Unknown Location of Ukraine:

Then under German occupation, this postal administration of an unknown institution, whose location in Ukraine has also remained unknown to date, issued, probably in 1941, one postal card with a surcharge on a Soviet card. Its use of the trident and the Ukrainian currency name for its value indicates that it was issued by a Ukrainian administration. See Figure 7 on next page.



Figure 6: An example of a Velyka Oleksandrivka postal card.



Figure 7: Postal card from unknown Ukrainian location.

The National Council of Trans-Carpathian Ukraine:
Then under Soviet occupation, this postal administration issued in 1945 twenty postal cards with surcharges on Hungarian and 1944 Czechoslovak cards. 18 were issued in Uzhhorod and 2 in Berehove. These postal cards were postally used from March to November 14, 1945. Figure 8 below shows an example.

[continued in next issue]

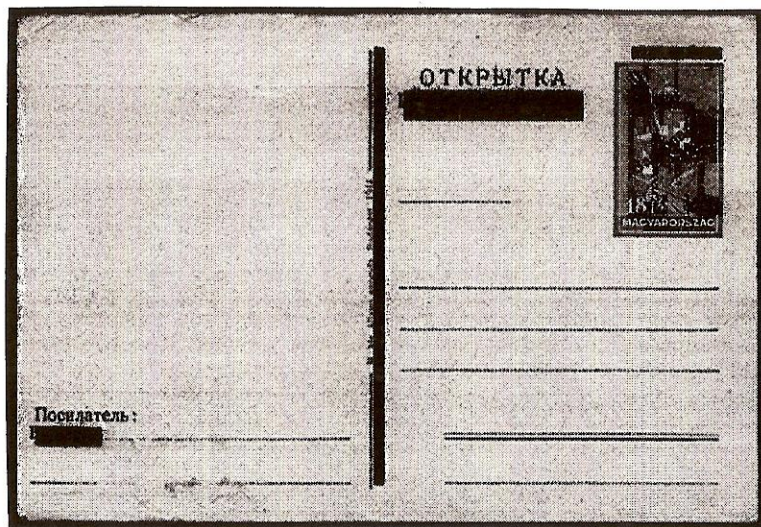


Figure 8: Trans-Carpathian Ukraine postal card.

BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE

We have a number of back issues of CALGARY PHILATELIST available free to paid-up CPS members who want to fill in their sets. Just drop a line to Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, T2P 2E7, stating which issues you need. (No phone calls, please.)

U.S. SPECIALIZED STUDY GROUP

by Steve Davis

I have created a new online group for anyone interested in U.S. philately. My intent is to make this like our old study groups in the CPS. To subscribe: us_specialized-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

We now have 17 members [as of April 25], many of them very experienced collectors. Quite a few come from the online stamp club Stamporama that I belong to but we also have several others. The members are from Canada, all over the U.S., Cuba, and Australia. Topics of discussion have included soaking self-adhesives, the 2-cent Black Jack issue, favourite new issues, and proposed new issues. Information has also been exchanged on collecting interests and potential trading areas.

THE CPS ON-LINE DISCUSSION GROUP

by Dale Speirs

The CPS has an on-line discussion group where members can chat about philatelic matters, club business, or post news announcements. To join, send an e-mail to opuntia57@yahoo.ca with the subject heading "Subscribe CPS group". In the main body of the message, list your real name (no Internet alias, please) so I can verify your membership, and the e-mail address you want to subscribe under. If you are not a member of Yahoo Groups, you will have to register a name and password at their Website after I have signed you up, but this is free and only has to be done once. Thereafter, you can go directly to the www.yahooogroups.com and read archived messages or post new ones. You will also receive a daily digest of messages from the CPS group. We are not a high-traffic group, so you may not get messages every day. I will pick out messages from time to time for the CALGARY PHILATELIST for the benefit of those not on-line and compile them here.

THE URBAN TRANSIT STAMPS

by Dale Speirs

On March 30, 2004, Canada Post issued a sheet of stamps featuring four rapid transit systems in large cities. The official reason was the 50th anniversary of Canada's first subway opening in Toronto. Also included in the commemoration were the systems in Montréal, Calgary, and Vancouver.

I previously sent in some enquiries with Calgary Transit asking if there would be any official ceremony for the occasion. I had no reply. I found out after the fact that there had been a ceremony at the Spring Gardens complex, which struck me as strange because those are bus barns, not LRT barns. Apparently the media were invited but not the lumpenproletariat.

In the meantime I set into motion (pun intended) my own plans. I obtained some free LRT schedules from the Calgary Transit office on 7 Avenue SW downtown. I walked over to the post office and bought the stamps on the day of issue. I had expected to have to buy the entire sheet just to get the Calgary stamps, but fortunately they were the bottom strip on the sheet. The postie didn't mind ripping off the bottom rows for me. I then applied the stamps to the LRT schedules. While I was doing this, the postie carefully ripped off the selvedge from the remaining stamps and put the mutilated sheets into his drawer. This seems to be instinctive behaviour, as I've seen this before in various postal outlets. However, since I had no interest in the other cities, and I doubt any other purchasers in Calgary would, there was no great loss.

The postie was kind enough to let me do the cancelling of the stamps. I had trouble finding any open areas on the train schedules that would show up the postmark clearly because of the cluttered design and dark colour of the brochures. Instead I postmarked twice, once tying the stamp with the date and the second in an open area to show the town name. The final result is shown in Figure 1.

The stamp design was quite nice. The C-Train tracks were shown three times in horizontal tiling. First was a train zooming leftward, then a platform with people politely queuing to get on and off (which qualifies this stamp as a science fiction topical), and then a train zooming right. I had hoped to carry my FDCs up and down the line and get postmarks at postal outlets close to the stations. Unfortunately I had an early afternoon business meeting and did not have the time.

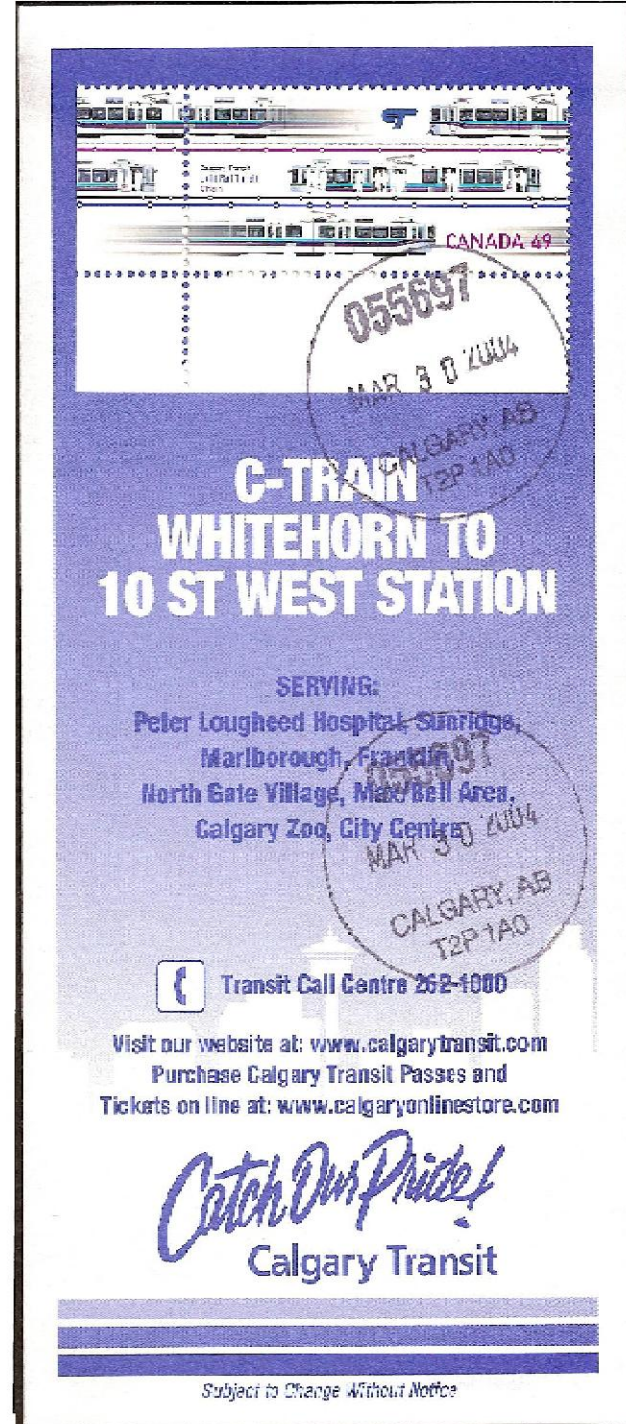


Figure 1: First-day postmark on Calgary LRT stamp mounted on train schedule.

Ponzi: The Incredible True Story Of The King Of Financial Cons by Donald Dunn (2004, published by Broadway Books, trade paperback). Few people can have the immortality of having a thing or process named after them that enters the popular lexicon. In the world of science, Bunsen had his burner and Erlenmeyer is immortalized by his flask. Every doctor hopes to have a syndrome named after him. Economists are remembered by economic cycles; Kondratieff has his long wave and Kuznet his short business cycle. But only one criminal in history had a fraud named after him. Carlos Ponzi did not invent the pyramid scheme that pays earlier investors out of the money invested by later suckers. But he carried it to such excess in 1920 that ever since then that type of fraud has been known as a Ponzi scheme.

The philatelic connection to Ponzi is that he used International Postal Reply coupons as the basis of his scheme. An IPR is used to enable your correspondent to reply with you paying for the postage. You buy the coupon at your post office, and your respondent cashes it in at his post office in whatever country he lives in for a postage stamp to pay the foreign surface rate. Today the service fee in every country costs far more than the value of the stamp. In Ponzi's time, countries with depreciated currency sold coupons at a fraction of what it cost to buy one in the USA. Ponzi spotted this exchange rate difference and initially used it to buy IPRs in Europe and redeem them in the USA. The American stamps were then sold at a discount to postage brokers to make a profit. When the Universal Postal Union realized what Ponzi was doing, they had to meet in special session to change the rules.

That didn't bother Ponzi, since he didn't like the trouble of redeeming millions of IPRs, even if the USPO would accept that many. Instead, he told investors that he was cashing in the IPRs overseas for money, not stamps. He paid 50% interest on their money, and used the later investors to pay off the early ones, robbing Peter to pay Paul. Ponzi proceeded to live like a king. When his pyramid of cash finally toppled over in late 1920, he brought down several banks with him. What is fascinating are the details on how Ponzi calculated IPR coupon exchange rates, and explained how, in theory, one could double one's money every few months. Practice was different, but Ponzi assured investors that he had a secret method of doing it. Ponzi was such a slippery character that the American prosecutors had to go to consider trouble to demonstrate that the USPO was not cashing in millions of dollars of IPRs, and that foreign countries were not selling them in the quantity Ponzi would have needed.

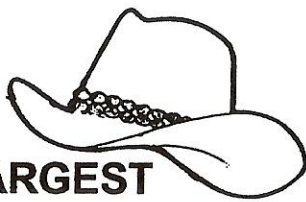
Kaswell, Alice Shirrell (2003 July/August) **Which came first, the chicken or the egg?** ANNALS OF IMPROBABLE RESEARCH 9(4):4-6

Kaswell mailed, in separate packages but at the same time and same post office, two USPS Express Mail parcels, one containing a live chicken and the other a fresh egg. The packages were sent from Cambridge, Massachusetts, to New York City. Both were mailed on a Monday at 09h40. Both arrived on Wednesday in New York City, but the chicken was delivered at 10h31 in the morning and the egg at 21h37 that evening. This article proves conclusively that the chicken came before the egg, finally resolving the age-old question. And you thought postal history was boring!

Auxiliary Markings #1 and #2 (Copies donated to CPS Library by Steve Davis; ask the club Librarian at the general meetings) A new study group devoted to auxiliary markings used by post offices. These are non-rate markings such as "Return To Sender", forwarding address labels, and pointing fingers. There are no formal studies on these markings as a whole, and thus this first issue is taken up by a discussion on how to classify such extremely diverse markings and catalogue them. The second issue carries on with reports of the different types, as well as a look at the companies that sold the handstamps to postmasters.

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NOTE TO INTERNET VIEWERS: Unless stated otherwise, telephone numbers are area code 403. Alberta is on Mountain Time. Any advertiser can be reached through the CPS e-mail at calphilso@shaw.ca, but please allow time for forwarding to offline members.

WANTED: Tanna Tuva, especially covers. I used to have a few and now starting over. Phone Keith at (780)437-1787 (Edmonton)

COLLECT Christmas or owls? I have just completed updated checklists for both topics. Willing to share for just the cost of photocopying and postage. Contact Pat at 238-3435.

WANTED: Owl stamps worldwide. Cash or trade. Call Pat at 238-3435.

WANTED: Stamp show catalogues, Canadian and international shows. The older the better. Please contact Ed at 274-0021 or harrise@shaw.ca

WANTED: Advanced collector of World Wildlife Fund (anything with the panda logo) stamps, postally-used covers, FDCs, postcards, maximum cards, even cookie cans. Top dollar paid! Phone Jan at 251-1769.

WANTED: Private collector pays cash for larger stamp collections. Phone Willi at 239-2273.

TRADE: Need automotive work done on your car? Let's trade my labour for your stamps that I need. I am a licenced mechanic with 20+ years experience. Phone Doug Kollar at 547-3838.

FOR SALE: Ukrainian and Russian stamps new and used. Also Ukrainian FDCs and special cancels from 1991 to date. Call Andy at 236-2037.

WANTED: Stamps and covers from China to 1949. Special interest in overprints. Prefer bulk lots. Call Penny at 686-2662.

TRADE: Asia: Japan, Singapore ... British: GB, Ascension to New Zealand, and South Africa ... Europe: Scandinavia, Germany, France, Switzerland ... to trade based on Scott catalogue. Call Joe at 277-7006

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2004

May	19	Auction
June	2	General meeting and elections
	6	Sunday bourse
	16	Auction
August	6	Deadline for September bulletin
September	1	General meeting
	1	Deadline for October bulletin
	15	Auction
October	6	General meeting
	16 to 18	CALTAPEX
	20	Auction
November	3	General meeting
	3	Deadline for December bulletin
	17	Auction
December	1	Christmas social

MEETINGS and AUCTIONS are at the Kerby Centre, 2nd floor, 1133 - 7 Avenue SW, at 19h30. Auction lots should be in before 19h30 to allow bidder viewing

SPRING BOURSE and CALTAPEX will be held at the Kerby Centre, main floor, 1133 - 7 Avenue SW. Details from Janice Brookes at 251-1769.

SUNDAY BOURSE is at Palliser Community Centre, 2323 Palliser Drive SW, from 10h00 to 16h00. Details and table rentals from Bill Szaroz at 337-3260.

CALGARY REGIONAL GROUP OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY meets on the second Wednesday of the month except July and August. For details about meeting places and times, contact Ed Harris at 274-0021.